

A Special "All-Photo" Holiday Issue!

ARIZONA

HIGHWAYS

DECEMBER 2009

ESCAPE · EXPLORE · EXPERIENCE

PEACE ON EARTH

Our Annual Postcard to the World,
Featuring More Than 50 Pages of
Spectacular Landscape Photography





ARIZONA HIGHWAYS

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a couple of months ago, I got an email from a soldier in Afghanistan — he was requesting some copies of our magazine. Sergeant Montgomery and his platoon had just arrived in the middle of nowhere, at a place known as the Korengal Valley. It's a remote and mountainous region, and it's a million miles from the soldiers' home base in Fort Carson, Colorado.

I don't know a lot about Sergeant Thaddeus Montgomery, other than the obvious, which is that he's willing to risk his life for his country. I also know that when the holidays roll around later this month, he won't be anywhere near his family or friends in the Southwest. The same is true for thousands of other servicemen and women around the world.

Living in a place like Arizona, which is blessed with more than 100,000 square miles of scenic beauty, it's easy to take for granted things like peace and tranquility. Living in a tent in a war zone in Afghanistan, it's a whole different world. For Sergeant Montgomery and his men, the only way to experience the serenity of Sedona or the White Mountains or the Grand Canyon is to close their eyes or get lost in a book. Or maybe a magazine.

That's what this month's "all-photography" issue is all about. Think of it as a brief respite from reality, which is something everyone can use from time to time. Not just our men and women in uniform, but everyone. It's been a long and challenging year — "the worst of times," as Dickens might say. Bankruptcies, foreclosures, layoffs ... reading the headlines in the newspaper every day has been difficult. That is, if your newspaper is even



JEFF KIDA

still in business.

Of course, one issue of *Arizona Highways* can't make the Dow go up or the body count go down, but it can offer that respite. If only for a while. Although we're extremely proud of every issue we've produced over the past 85 years, we believe this issue is something special. From cover to cover, it's all photos — 50-plus pages of the best landscape photography in the world. It's something we've never done before. Not like this.

If you're a regular reader of the magazine, you might have known that. You might also know that over the years we've billed our December issue as a "Postcard to the World." This year is no different, but in addition to the 120 countries that get our magazine on a monthly basis, we'll also be sending copies to Afghanistan. It's the very least we can do.

Happy holidays to all of the men and women serving our country, and thanks to all of you for spending another year with *Arizona Highways*.



WINTER, SPRING,
SUMMER OR FALL ...

For more spectacular photography, pick up a copy of our newest book, *Arizona's Scenic Seasons*. As you'll see, it dispels the myth that this state is nothing but a barren wasteland baking in the sun. Indeed, there are four very distinct seasons, and we have the photos to prove it. For more information, visit www.arizonahighways.com.

ROBERT STIEVE, *editor*

Photographic prints available: Prints of some photographs in this special holiday issue are available for purchase. To view options, visit www.arizonahighwaysprints.com or call 866-962-1191.

editor's
LETTER

rstieve@arizonahighways.com

OPPOSITE PAGE A frigid fog hangs over a Lukachukai valley on the Navajo Nation in Northeastern Arizona. PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID MUENCH

FRONT COVER The sun emerges through a dense bank of clouds, highlighting the Grand Canyon's Moran Point, which is frosted with a deep layer of snow. PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZANNE P. MATHIA

BACK COVER Storm clouds clear, offering a peek at the stunning panorama of the Grand Canyon in winter. PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZANNE P. MATHIA



PEACE ON EARTH

Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas or a few days off from work, December is a good time to reflect on whatever matters most to you. If Mother Nature makes your list, you're going to love the next 50-plus pages. What follows is a portfolio of Arizona's most striking landscapes, sorted by seasons. It's not just another collection of pretty pictures, though; it's a compilation of the very best photographs taken by the very best photographers, including virtuosos such as Jerry Jacka, George Stocking, Robert McDonald and Gary Ladd. As you'll see, when it comes to scenic beauty and tranquility, Arizona is second-to-none.

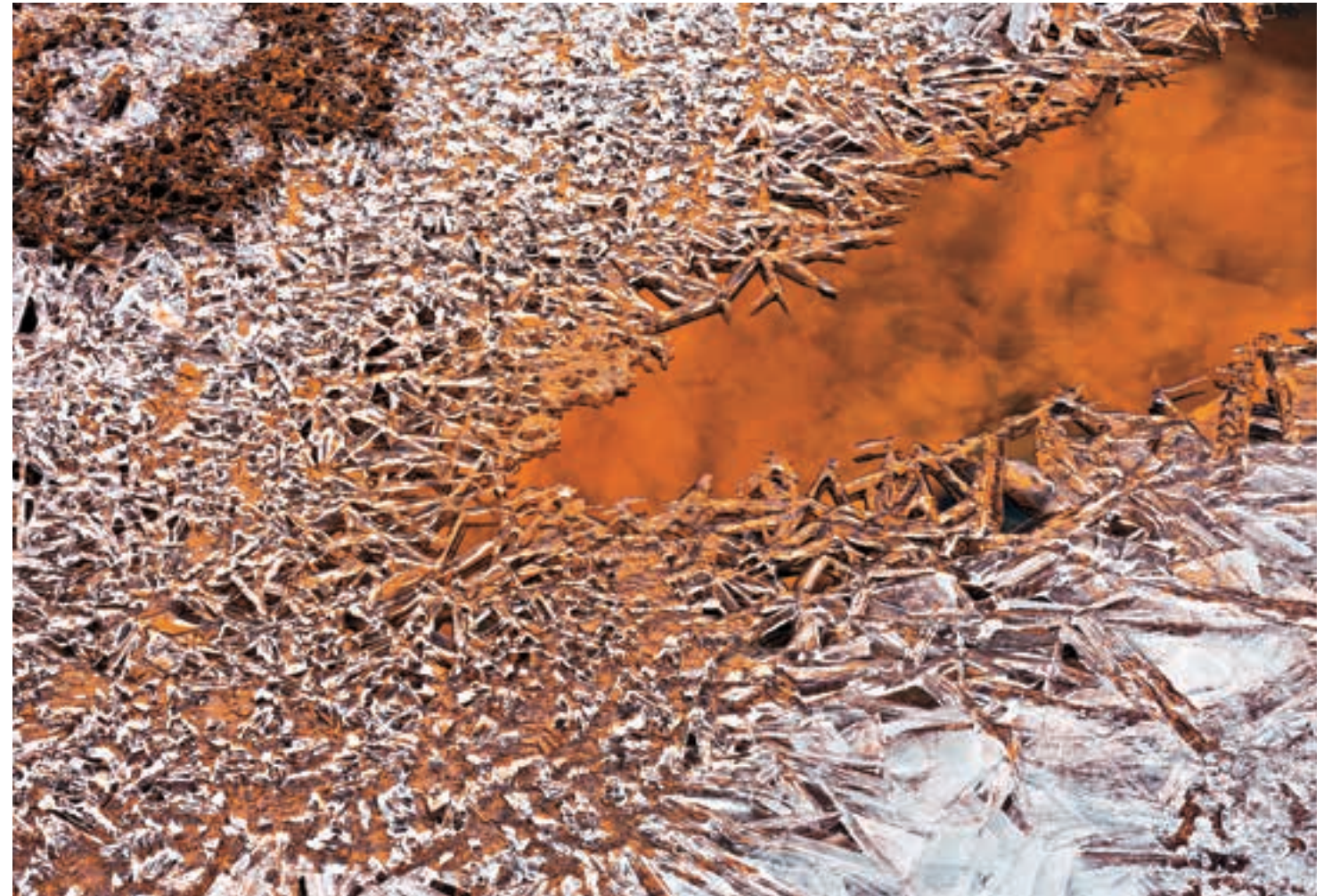
EDITED BY PETER ENSENBARGER & JEFF KIDA

SILENT SNOW Near Flagstaff, a serene snowfall swathes a ponderosa pine forest in winter splendor. PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM BEAN



MORNING REFLECTION The still water of Oak Creek's Slide Rock narrows mirrors a new day after a winter squall leaves sycamore trees and sandstone walls coated with snow. PHOTOGRAPH BY DEREK VON BRIESEN

W I N T E R



"IF WE HAD NO
WINTER, THE
SPRING WOULD NOT
BE SO PLEASANT:

IF WE DID NOT
SOMETIMES TASTE
OF ADVERSITY,
PROSPERITY
WOULD NOT BE
SO WELCOME."

— ANNE BRADSTREET

FRIGID FINERY Watery reflections of red-rock cliffs
are topped by ice patterns formed on the Little Colorado
River, displaying a detailed study of winter's frosty
fashions. PHOTOGRAPHS BY CLAIRE CURRAN

W I N T E R



WINTER WOODS A split-rail fence and a snowy landscape create a perfect Currier & Ives

setting in Northern Arizona's Kaibab National Forest. PHOTOGRAPH BY MOREY K. MILBRADT

W I N T E R



BLUSHING BEAUTY Seen from Moran Point, the North Rim of the Grand Canyon (above), cloaked with a blanket of fresh snow, glows beneath a brilliant dawn sky. Frost-covered yuccas dot the landscape near the Chiricahua Mountains (opposite) as fog envelops the surrounding grasslands buried beneath a surprise snowfall. PHOTOGRAPHS BY JACK DYKINGA

W I N T E R





RISE AND SHINE The long rays of sunrise stretch over the calm water of Lake Powell's Padre Bay after a mid-January dusting of snow. PHOTOGRAPH BY GARY LADD

W I N T E R

"IT IS MY LAND,
MY HOME, MY
FATHER'S LAND,
TO WHICH
I NOW ASK
TO BE ALLOWED
TO RETURN.

I WANT TO SPEND MY
LAST DAYS THERE, AND
BE BURIED AMONG
THOSE MOUNTAINS."

— GERONIMO



FROM ON HIGH Standing within the Superstition Wilderness, this snowy saguaro cactus (above) thrives at 4,000 feet, the highest elevation at which a saguaro can survive. PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL GILL

SEEKING THE SUN Four Peaks emerge like cold fingers from a heavy blanket of snow in the Mazatzal Wilderness east of Phoenix. PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE THOMAS RAYMOND

W I N T E R



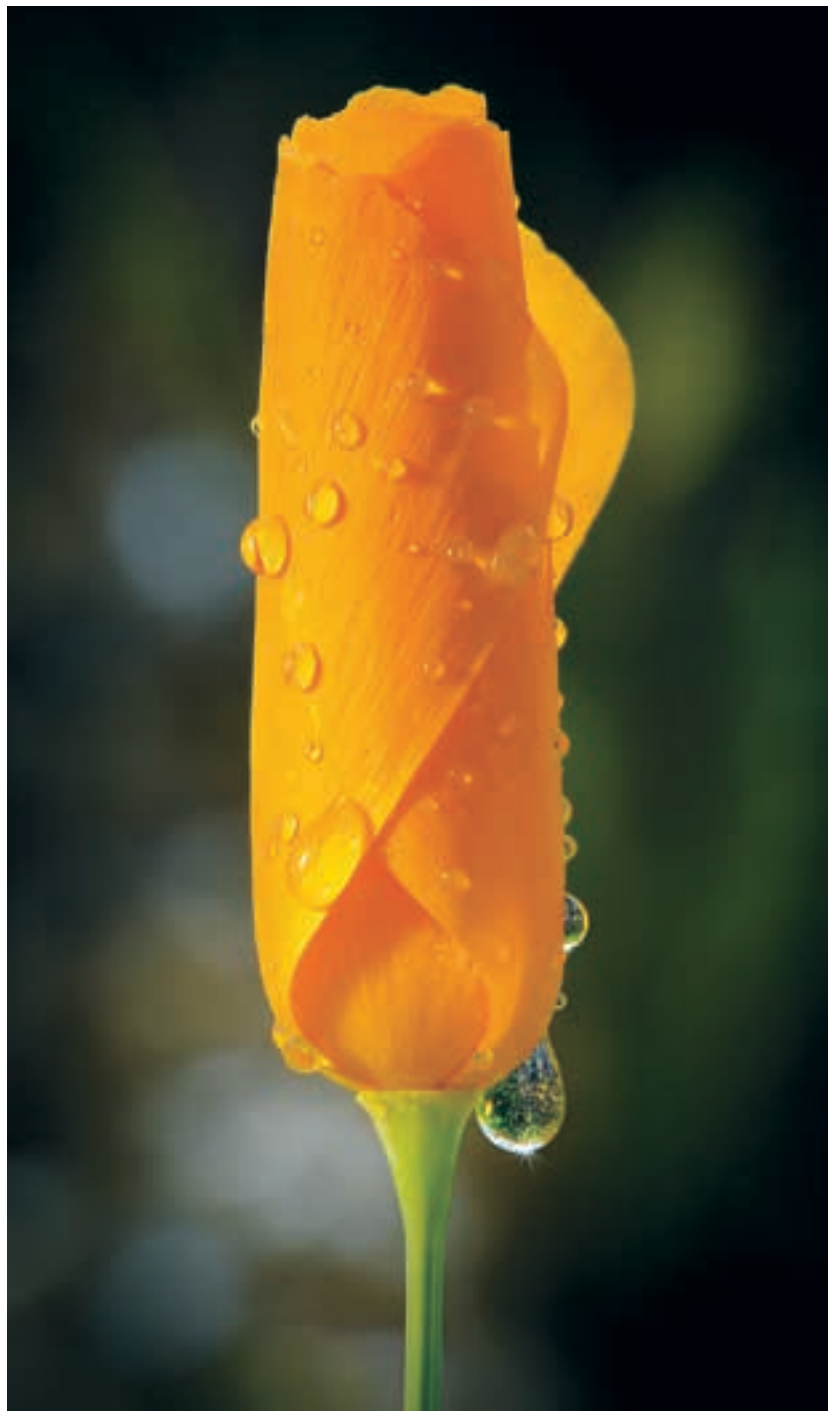


CROWNING GLORY The colorful blooms of prickly pear cactuses make

their appearance beginning in mid-April and usually last for six weeks. PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZANNE P. MATHIA

S P R I N G





FIELDS OF GOLD A sawtooth-patterned sandstone ridge (preceding panel) stands guard over a field of golden crownbeard on the Navajo Nation near Window Rock. PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT McDONALD

BEAUTY IN BLOOM As sunrise casts a golden glow, drops of dew cling to a Mexican goldpoppy (above). PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZANNE P. MATHIA

THINK PINK With the Hualapai Mountains in the distance, spring enlivens the desert near Kingman with the colorful blooms of a beavertail prickly pear cactus and buckwheat flowers (right). PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT McDONALD

S P R I N G





"EARTH HAS
NOT ANYTHING
TO SHOW
MORE FAIR:

DULL WOULD
HE BE OF SOUL
WHO COULD
PASS BY

A SIGHT SO
TOUCHING IN
MAJESTY."

— WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

PICACHO'S PEAK A saguaro cactus grows amid a lush display of spring wildflowers (preceding panel), including Mexican goldpoppies and lupines at Picacho Peak State Park.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE STOCKING

S P R I N G

FORCE OF NATURE A monsoon storm brings a steady flow to Grand Falls (right), also known as Chocolate Falls because of the high mud content of the Little Colorado River as it edges closer toward the deluge.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE STOCKING





COLOR WHEEL A blushing blue sky and splashes of yellow and orange from blooming brittlebushes and ocotillos (above) add color to the green and brown palette of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Southern Arizona. PHOTOGRAPH BY RANDY PRENTICE

SPRING

FRAGILE EXISTENCE Amid tiny insect tracks on the surface of the Pinta Sands at Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge (right), delicate sand verbenas cast the long shadows of sunrise.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JACK DYKINGA





FIRE AND RAIN A summer monsoon storm drifts over the San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff as sunset turns the sky a fiery red.
PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE STOCKING

S U M M E R



PARADISE FOUND Sunracer Falls flows into a placid pool fringed with the lush vegetation of Sawmill Canyon on the San Carlos Apache Nation. PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF SNYDER

S U M M E R



X MARKS THE SPOT Whirls of sculpted sandstone form an abstract study of geology as a slender shaft of sunlight permeates Canyon X on the Navajo Nation (above).

PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE STOCKING

S U M M E R

RIPPLE EFFECT Early morning clouds gather over sand dunes at the base of Totem Pole and Yei Bichei rocks in Northern Arizona's Monument Valley (right).

PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE STOCKING








SEDONA SUNSET After a downpour floods a verdant meadow (preceding panel), the dramatic backdrop of passing thunderstorm clouds intensifies the scarlet hues of Cathedral Rock at sunset. PHOTOGRAPH BY DEREK VON BRIESEN

S U M M E R

COOL DOWN The thirsty Sonoran Desert (left) is the recipient of welcome rain as a late-day monsoon storm passes through Saguaro National Park near Tucson. PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE STOCKING

CRIMSON AND CLOVER Crimson monkeyflowers and maidenhair ferns (above) cling to the rough canyon walls within West Clear Creek Wilderness. PHOTOGRAPH BY NICK BEREZENKO



SCULPTED BY TIME Created from millions of years of differential erosion, strange rock formations, called hoodoos, pepper the stark landscape of the Navajo Nation outside Page.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE STOCKING

S U M M E R

“HOW
WONDROUS
FINE ARE
THE PARTICLES
IN SHOWERS
OF DEW,
THOUSANDS
REQUIRED
FOR A SINGLE
DROP,
GROWING IN
THE DARK AS
SILENTLY AS
GRASS!”
— JOHN MUIR

MEADOW MIST A light morn-
ing mist rises from the East Fork
of the Black River, adding an
ethereal quality to the hillsides
and thickets of the Apache-
Sitgreaves National Forests.
PHOTOGRAPH BY LAURENCE PARENT

S U M M E R





ROLLING IN A summer monsoon storm rolls across the sky near Sunset Crater (above), a volcanic cinder cone that dominates the San Francisco Peaks volcanic field north of Flagstaff. PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM BEAN

S U M M E R

DRESSED IN WHITE The slender trunks of an aspen grove (right) punctuate the landscape above Lockett Meadow in the Coconino National Forest. PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM BEAN





AUTUMN WINDS A miniature waterfall cascades down boulders covered with wind-strewn leaves of maple and sycamore trees that line Miller Canyon in Southeastern Arizona. PHOTOGRAPH BY CLAIRE CURRAN

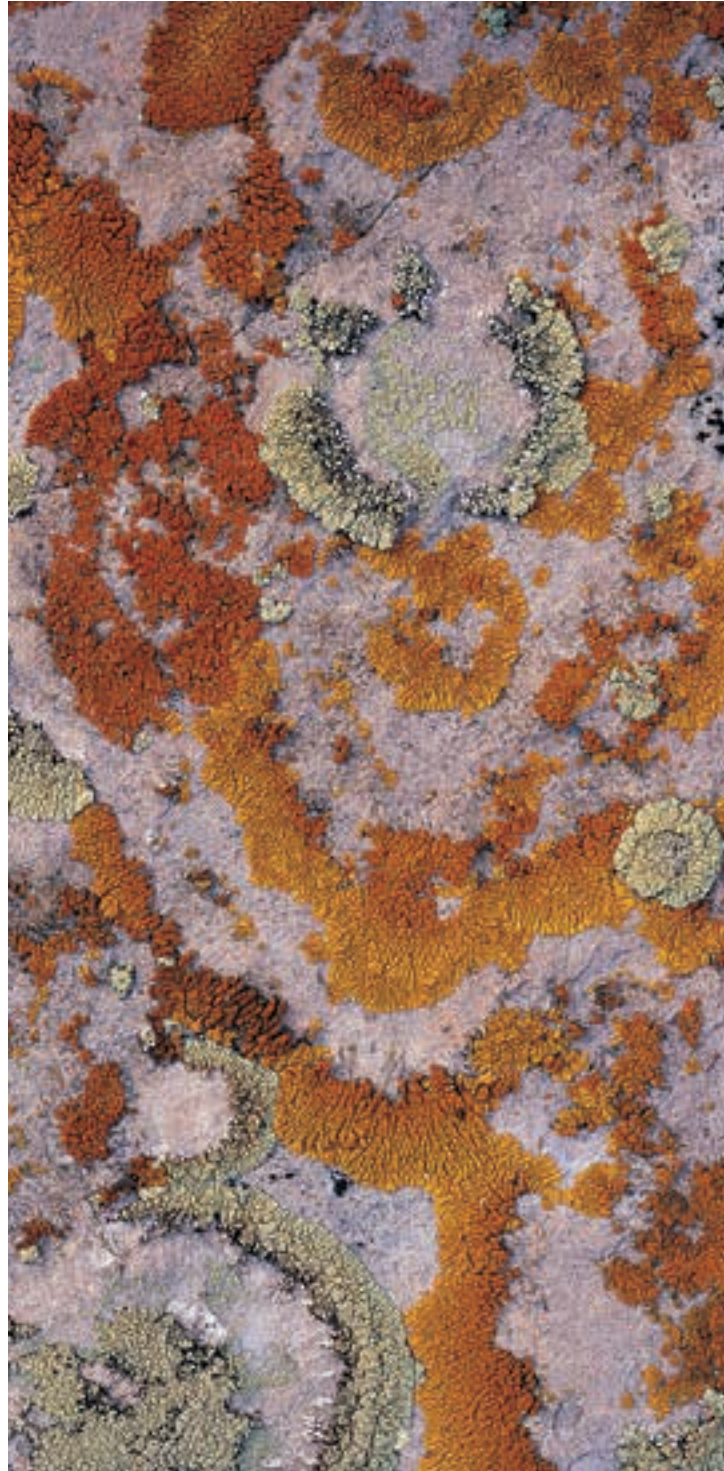
F A L L



INDIAN SUMMER The cold nights and bright, crisp days of autumn bring fall color to Southern Arizona, evidenced by the cottonwood and willow trees that line the banks of the San Pedro River.

PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM DANIELSON

F A L L



NATURAL ART A close perspective shows the stunning detail of the lichen-covered rim rocks (above) of Marble Canyon in Grand Canyon National Park. PHOTOGRAPH BY JACK DYKINGA

F A L L

TOUCH OF GOLD Bright yellow maple leaves (right) scatter across the boulders of Wet Canyon in Southeastern Arizona's Pinaleno Mountains. PHOTOGRAPH BY CLAIRE CURRAN





THREE AMIGOS Examples of high-desert vegetation — beargrass, Mormon tea and a whipple cholla —

hold court at Tsegi Overlook at Canyon de Chelly National Monument. PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM DANIELSEN

F A L L



"O HUSHED
OCTOBER
MORNING
MILD,
BEGIN THE
HOURS OF THIS
DAY SLOW.
MAKE THE DAY
SEEM TO US
LESS BRIEF.
HEARTS
NOT AVERSE
TO BEING
BEGUILED,
BEGUILE US
IN THE WAY
YOU KNOW."

— ROBERT FROST

FALL FESTIVAL A gathering of bigtooth maple leaves
(above) adorns a boulder in Garden Canyon
in the Huachuca Mountains. PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL GILL

AGE BEFORE BEAUTY A mature sycamore tree (right)
stands next to the brilliant orange foliage of bigtooth
maples in Southeastern Arizona's Miller Canyon.
PHOTOGRAPH BY RANDY PRENTICE

F A L L





NATURE'S MIRROR A reflecting pool in Turkey Creek provides a still surface for collecting leaves from an overhead canopy of birch and sycamore trees in the Galiuro Mountains. PHOTOGRAPH BY KURT GRABOW



MOGOLLON MAGIC An aspen grove, crowned with the golden leaves of autumn, mingles with a stand of ponderosa pine trees along the Mogollon Rim in Eastern Arizona.
PHOTOGRAPH BY JERRY JACKA

F A L L

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